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Applicant : Joe Cagnelli et al
Appl. No : 09/900,468
Filed : July 9, 2001
Title : MANIFOLD FOR A FUEL CELL SYSTEM
Grp./A.U. : 1745
Examiner : Initial Patent Examination Division
Docket No. : 9351-62 HSF

BY FACSIMILE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C.
20231

February 19, 2002

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed December 19, 2001. Please amend this application as follows:

In the specification:

Please delete [✓] paragraphs 35-42 inclusive at pages 8-9.

Paragraph 59 has been amended as follows:

[0059] For simplicity and brevity, the description of these components is not repeated. In this embodiment, the manifold assembly 70 includes four layers of separated plates, namely a front plate 60, a first middle plate 50, a second middle plate 30 and a back plate 20. The back plate 20 is formed so that the fuel cell stack 10 can abut against it. The back plate 20, as in the first embodiment, has six ports provided therein, and is the same as that shown in Figures 4a and 4b. In this embodiment, the ports are in the form of six through holes 21 to 26 which penetrate the back plate 20 in the direction of thickness. For illustration only, in this embodiment, the six through holes 21 to 26 penetrate the back plate 20. The six through holes 21 to 26 are provided in two rows each having three holes arranged in alignment in vertical direction. Each of the three holes in each row is in alignment with the corresponding hole in the other row in

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